

Utah State Ethnic Offices and the Division of Indian Affairs

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**RESOLUTION URGING AVAILABILITY OF
TRANSPLANT ORGANS THROUGH COMMUNITY
PLEDGE PROGRAMS**

Be it resolved by the Directors of the State Ethnic Offices and Division of Indian Affairs:

WHEREAS, Utah's Coalition for Organ, Eye and Tissue Donation, in partnership with The Quest for the Gift of Life foundation, is implementing a statewide, community-based pledge program to involve local governments, businesses, communities, service clubs, educators, and interfaith councils to combine efforts in accomplishing meaningful initiatives that will raise public awareness and education regarding organ transplantation;

WHEREAS, the National Coalition for Organ, Eye and Tissue Donation published statistics that show 70,000 people are currently waiting for a life-saving transplant with only 6,000 organ donations taking place annually, resulting in 12-16 lives lost daily due to lack of a needed organ;

WHEREAS, 30% of driver's license donor registrants, upon an unexpected death, do not become donors because their next of kin were unaware of their desire to donate or their next of kin chose not to donate regardless of the signed donor registration card; and

WHEREAS, enough organs are available but cannot be accessed due to a lack of education and a clear understanding about organ and tissue donation, including the misconception that donations are incompatible with religious beliefs;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Directors of the Ethnic Offices and Division of Indian Affairs urges Utah's local governments, communities, businesses, educators service clubs, and interfaith organizations to pledge to join in "leading the way" by helping to raise public awareness and education regarding organ, eye and tissue donation for the purpose of saving lives.